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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF MARKETING SERVICES
Washington 25, D. C.

May 25, 1945

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 31

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

UNOFFICIAL USE OF OFFICIAL CARS

All employees of this Branch are doubtless aware that the use of official automobiles for purposes other than official business is prohibited. Bear in mind that "side trips" from the route of official travel are considered personal.

Department Regulations 1831 (revised 8-18-44) (Amendment 191) states as follows:

"Any officer or employee of the Department who uses or authorizes the use of any motor-propelled passenger-carrying vehicle owned or leased by the Government for other than official purposes shall be summarily removed from office." This regulation is being rigidly enforced.

Paul M. Williams
Assistant Chief

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

RELATION OF FREIGHT CONTAINER BUREAU TARIFF
REQUIREMENTS TO GOOD AND BAD ORDER CLASSIFICATION

The R. P. I. A. has frequently requested the recognition of Freight Container Bureau Tariff Specifications in the classification of containers under the U. S. SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF DAMAGED OR REPAIRED PACKAGES. The F. C. B. tariff specifications include, among other requirements, the number and size of nails, thickness of shock for various parts of the container, and methods of loading and bracing. Such requirements are not contained in the U. S. Specifications and so should not be considered in making official classifications of Damaged or Repaired Packages.

The U. S. Specifications require a Good Order classification for the following types of damage:

Page 2 (3) "Damage to containers which can definitely be attributed to flagrantly defective or unsuitable material, design or assembly for the purpose for which used.

Page 4 (7) "Damage that can definitely be attributed to improper original loading of cars, such as:

- (a) Bruising and chafing of contents caused by movement of sacks in loosely loaded loads or in loads in which contents become damaged by being in contact with walls of car."

The inspector will use his judgment as to what constitutes "flagrantly defective design or assembly." Damage cannot be "definitely attributed to improper original loading" when other shipments similarly loaded, stripped or braced, consistently arrive in satisfactory condition.

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

REGULATORY DIVISION

In connection with a complaint under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, we are desirous of ascertaining the present address of Lawrence C. Noel, one of the partners in the firm of Texas Brokerage Company, Dallas, Texas. Noel departed from Dallas rather suddenly several weeks ago. Anyone having information as to his present address is requested to wire the information to the Washington office of the Regulatory Division.

Issuance of licenses under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act has shown a gradual increase during the past few months. January 6 of this year, there were 19,884 licenses in effect. As of May 12, there were 20,571 licenses in effect. It is anticipated that the increase will continue for some time. The number of informal determination cases being handled by the Complaint and Investigation Section is also increasing. This type of case requires additional handling by the Section, and the determination is not rendered until the facts and evidence have been reviewed by three investigators, who must be in substantial agreement on all essential elements.

T. C. Curry, Chief.

FRUIT MARKETING DIVISION

DRIED FRUITS

An allocation of 2,800 tons of 1945 crop dried figs from Turkey, for import into the United States has been recommended by the Combined Food Board and agreed to by the British authorities. A press release will be issued in the near future announcing the allocation and inviting importers of figs to file application for import licenses.

Representatives of the dried prune advisory committee will meet in Washington this week to confer with WFA officials relative to support prices for 1945 dried prunes.

STRAWBERRIES - CEILING PRICE ADJUSTMENT

The official crop report, as of May 1, indicated a prospective yield substantially below average in many of the mid-spring and late spring strawberry States. The Office of Price Administration, therefore, issued Amendment 105 to Maximum Price Regulation 426, effective May 21, increasing the f.o.b. ceiling prices for strawberries, in Zone I, 2 cents per pint and 3.5 cents per quart for the period ending June 20. Zone I is comprised of all States east of and including North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

FRESH PEACH CEILING PRICES

The Office of Price Administration has issued Maximum Price Regulation 426, Amendment 102, effective May 18, 1945, establishing maximum prices for peaches for fresh consumption. The all season f.o.b. prices for peaches produced in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Southern Idaho and Malheur County of Oregon, graded and packed, are \$1.45 per fruit box with a net weight of 16 to 18 pounds, .33 and .334 per standard bushel basket. The all season f.o.b. prices for peaches produced in Washington, Northern Idaho, and all of Oregon except Malheur

County, graded and packed, are \$1.43 per fruit box with a net weight of 16 to 19 pounds, \$1.63 per fruit box with a net weight of 19 to 21 pounds, and \$1.88 per Sanger lug box with a net weight of 22 to 24 pounds. The f.o.b. prices for peaches produced in California, Nevada, and Arizona, graded and packed, are \$1.76 per fruit box with a net weight of 17 to 19 pounds to June 17, and \$1.47 from June 18 to end of season; \$2.44 per Sanger lug box with a net weight of 24 to 26 pounds to June 17, and \$2.04 from June 18 to end of season. The f.o.b. prices for peaches produced in all other States, graded and packed, are \$4.41 per standard bushel basket to June 17, and \$3.64 from June 18 to end of season; \$2.37 per standard half-bushel basket to June 17, and \$1.98 from June 18 to end of season.

GEORGIA PEACHES

Grade and size regulations on shipments of peaches from Georgia were instituted by an order issued by the Director of Marketing Services on May 12, 1945. This action was recommended to the WFA on May 4 by the Industry Committee established under the marketing agreement program for Georgia peaches.

CALIFORNIA PLUMS

The Plum Commodity Committee established under the marketing agreement program for California fresh Bartlett pears, plums, and Elberta peaches met on May 23 and recommended to the WFA that shipments of plums from California be limited to specified grades and sizes. The action to be taken on the Committee's recommendation will be announced shortly.

COMMITTEES UNDER MARKETING AGREEMENT PROGRAMS FOR CALIFORNIA FRESH DECIDUOUS FRUITS AND TOKAY GRAPES

The War Food Administrator has appointed members and alternate members of the control and commodity committees, to serve during the 1945 season, under the marketing agreement program for California fresh Bartlett pears, plums, and Elberta peaches. Members and alternate members of the Industry Committee under the marketing agreement program for California Tokay grapes have also been appointed for the 1945 season.

EASTERN APPLE PURCHASE

Through May 22, 1,112,951 bushels of Eastern apples had been purchased since February 27 for the school lunch program and for other institutional use. Of this quantity, 224,884 bushels were U. S. No. 1, 2 to 2-1/4 inches in diameter at \$1.50 per bushel, and 888,067 bushels were Combination U. S. No. 1 and Utility (or better grades), 2-1/4 inches minimum diameter at \$1.75 per bushel. Purchases of limited quantities will be made through May 31, at which time the program expires.

D. E. McMillen, Chief.

MARKETING NEWS DIVISION

QUOTE SIZE B POTATOES

Considerable interest is being shown by various agencies in the price of size B potatoes. For this reason reporters, both on potato shipping point deals and in terminal markets, are requested to be sure to include in their daily wires quotations on size B whenever sufficient stock is being sold to establish a market. On shipping point deals, if too few sales of size B are made to establish a market or for some other reason no sales are being reported, indicate this on your FOB wire. In studying price series of potatoes for past years it has been found that very few markets regularly showed quotations on size B stock, either old or new. It is entirely possible that insufficient sales of this size were made to establish a regular price series. On the other hand, it is possible that some sales were not shown on our reports. This information is of considerable value when it can be obtained.

PARTICIPATION IN RADIO PROGRAMS

Increasing interest is being shown by some radio stations in obtaining additional market broadcasts, especially those beamed to growers and shippers. Within the past two weeks both our New York and Cleveland offices have started early morning remote control broadcasts directly from the market. Mr. Butts in New York at 6:35 A.M. five days a week, gives a five-minute resume of market conditions and prices, with emphasis on nearby products over station WEAJ. Mr. Nightingale in Cleveland presents a similar five-minute daily broadcast at 6:45 A.M. over station WTAM, emphasizing Ohio products. This type of broadcast has proven very popular. Any arrangements to begin such programs, or for that matter broadcasts of any type, should be cleared with Washington to assure conformance with Departmental policy, which is briefly as follows:

Prior to July, 1944, Department of Agriculture policy prohibited participation of employees in commercially sponsored radio programs. The Department still looks to stations and networks for sustaining time in which to present necessary public information. However, since July 28, 1944, use of especially prepared Department statements and appearance of Department personnel in commercial programs has been authorized under special arrangements which make it clear to listeners that such participation does not constitute endorsement by the Department of concerns or products. Any arrangements to appear either in a single or regularly scheduled commercially sponsored program should be cleared in Washington. Once participation in a given sponsored program has been approved subsequent participation in that program is automatically authorized so long as conditions agreed upon in the original authorization are adhered to by the sponsor. Participation will not be approved in any program that may lead the public to believe the sponsor is making time available to the Department as a means of obtaining special consideration not available to other concerns. The Department must be free to present its information or recommendations without influence by the sponsor or his agents. Department employees shall not participate in any program that would be embarrassing to the Department.

ADDRESSING SET OF ENVELOPES FOR CIRCULARIZATION OF MAILING LIST

All field men, upon closing a seasonal field office, should be sure to address a set of envelopes covering the mailing list to be used in circularizing the list the following year. This package should be plainly marked as to the contents, and mailed to the office where the plates are stored. This is especially necessary since some offices do not have the type of addressing equipment used in the field. This procedure, of course, is not necessary in those offices where the plates are stored locally during the time the office is closed and circularization of the list is made locally upon opening the following season.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS

<u>Location</u>	<u>In Charge</u>	<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Probable Opening and Closing Dates</u>
Brawley, Calif. Planters Hotel Bldg.	J. A. Hunter	Cantaloups	June 4 - July 3
Charleston, S. C. County Center Bldg.	D. R. Hall	Potatoes & Veggies.	May 8 - June 20
Crystal Springs, Miss. P. O. Box 249	B. I. Burrell	Misc. Veggies.	Apr. 19 - June 22
Jacksonville, Texas	L. N. Gillespie	Tomatoes	June 11 - July 10
Leesburg, Fla.	R. M. Peterson	Watermelons	May 15 - May 31
Macon, Ga. Grand Bldg.	C. B. Miller	Peaches	May 22 - July 15
Onley, Virginia Masonic Bldg.	S. W. Russell	Strawberries and Potatoes	May 11 - July 31
Washington, N. C. Post Office Bldg.	M. M. Roberts	Potatoes	May 21 - June 20

Weslaco closing June 8. Mobile, Alabama closed May 24. Lakeland closed May 19.
Sanford, Florida closed May 26. Salinas, Calif. closed May 19.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

VEGETABLE MARKETING DIVISION

VEGETABLE MARKETING SITUATION

A heavy movement of most vegetables is being absorbed by the markets at generally good prices. The very large Lower Valley, Texas tomato crop is past its peak movement and anticipated marketing difficulties have not materialized. Cannerys have been taking large quantities of snap beans in some areas. However, prices of the best grades and varieties of beans have been at or near ceiling. The Imperial Valley cantaloup season is late and volume shipments are not expected until early in June.

Requests for disaster adjustments of price ceilings of certain vegetable crops in various areas have required considerable attention recently. Such requests have been received for adjustments in ceilings on Virginia snap beans, Texas cantaloups and onions and Imperial Valley cantaloups and melons.

WAR FOOD ORDER 22.9

War Food Order 22.9 has been amended to increase the set aside for canned asparagus and canned spinach. The total set aside on canned asparagus is advanced from 55 per cent to 65 per cent, and on canned spinach from 64 per cent to 77 per cent. In addition to these two vegetables increased set-asides will be necessary for most of the other canned vegetables included under the order and the amendment is expected to be ready for announcement very soon.

POTATOES

The operation of WFO 120.1 in Maine was discontinued effective 12:01 a.m. May 22. The Order is now only operative in Kern County, California.

The Office of Price Administration has called a meeting of a task group comprised of several members of the National Potato Industry Advisory Committee and representatives of several different sections of the potato industry in connection with rewriting Regulation RMPR 271. The level of prices is not to be changed but changes in the text of the regulation are to be discussed.

The Office of Price Administration has called a meeting of the Seed Potato Industry Advisory Committee in Chicago, Illinois, for June 5.

The War Food Administration announced the price schedule for late potatoes and issued a revision of the early and intermediate potato price support provisions. The revisions include price support for U. S. No. 1 B Size and U. S. No. 2 grade, 1 7/8 inch minimum diameter at 50 per cent of the applicable basic price announced for the U. S. No. 1 grade. This price support program varies from previous programs as it requires the offering of all marketable grades of potatoes in a given field-run lot, which should encourage the selling in the channels of trade whenever sales yield returns above the support prices.

Canada announced ceiling prices on new potatoes effective May 14. At the same time, the regulation preventing the importation by Canada of U. S. No. 1 Size B potatoes was removed. Under the new Canadian price regulations U. S. No. 1 Size B potatoes are being exported to Canada.

Request to conduct a survey to determine changed conditions adversely affecting potato yields in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, northeastern Texas, and Oklahoma have been received. Such surveys have been requested. A similar request has been received from representatives of the Kern County producing area.

L. S. Fenn, Chief.

PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

Since January 1, 1945 numerous U. S. Standards for processed products have been issued or revised. In the interest of conserving paper only one copy is mailed to each office and to each District Supervisor. Additional copies of the standards that are needed for inspectors handling each commodity should be ordered from Washington. The following United States Standards have, or will become effective during the first six months of 1945:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Asparagus, Canned	May 1, 1945
Beans, Lima, Frozen	March 15, 1945
Figs, Dried	April 16, 1945 (New)
Peas, Canned - Amendment	May 21, 1945 (In mail to all offices for redistribution to inspectors)
Peas, Frozen	March 15, 1945
Tomato Pulp	January 1, 1945

The following U. S. Standards for processed products have been signed by Mr. C. W. Kitchen and will become effective as stated:

Apricots, Canned	June 15, 1945
Apricots, Dried	June 1, 1945
Brussels Sprouts, Frozen	June 15, 1945 (New)
Beans, Green or Wax, Canned	June 1, 1945
Grape Juice	June 15, 1945 (New)

Our attention has been called to the fact that some inspectors do not have the memorandum entitled "'Top Standard' Specified by Government Agencies," dated December 1, 1944. Supplies of this memorandum were sent to each office for redistribution to each inspector. If they are not in each inspector's possession, officers-in-charge may order supplies from Washington. This memorandum supersedes the previous memorandum dated June 1, 1942 on the same subject.

A temporary office will be opened in Bridgeton, New Jersey, on June 1, 1945. It will be located in the Radio Center Building, South Pearl and Warren Streets.

The following inspectors have recently participated in grading demonstrations for consumer classes and groups:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Inspector in charge of demonstration</u>	<u>Group for Whom Demonstration Given</u>	<u>Address</u>
5/9/45	Margaret H. Sherrerd	Marketing Class Columbia University	New York, N. Y.
5/10/45	Ruth Gladstone	Science Class Bronx High School	New York, N. Y.
5/12/45	Loren Gibson	Vermont Dietetic Assn.	Burlington, Vt.
5/14/45	Gerardine V. MacLean	Student Dietitians New York State Hospital	New York, N. Y.
5/14/45	Lillian W. Anderson	Food Management Class University of Minneapolis	Minneapolis, Minn.
5/19/45	Phyllis Drake	Consumer Information Center Office of Civilian Defense	St. Louis, Mo.

Pfc. Clarence E. Kunz, formerly an inspector in this Division, with headquarters at Rochester, New York, was seriously wounded by a sniper bullet just 12 hours prior to the V-E Day announcement. A clipping from the Titusville, Pennsylvania paper reads as follows:

"Pfc. Clarence E. Kunz, Titusville soldier who fought with the 1st U. S. Infantry Division in Germany, recently was awarded the bronze star medal for heroic achievement in action. He is the son of Mrs. Lola Kunz of Saegerstown.

Despite an intense enemy machine gun and small-arms barrage, Private Kunz moved across hazardous terrain to his platoon's exposed flank and with rapid and accurate rifle fire held the foe at bay until the organization's position could be secured.

'Private Kunz' heroic actions and courageous initiative exemplify the indomitable fighting spirit of the American soldier,' his citation said."

We wish Private Kunz a speedy and complete recovery. This is the second time he has been wounded in action.

F. L. Southerland, Acting Chief.

